



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

MICHELLE H. SEAGULL | COMMISSIONER

Testimony of Michelle Seagull
Commissioner of Consumer Protection
Environment Committee
Public Hearing, March 1, 2019

SENATE BILL 598 “AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION OF HEMP IN CONNECTICUT”

SENATE BILL 893 “AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENFORCEMENT PLAN FOR HEMP PRODUCTION”

HOUSE BILL 5481 “AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE LEGALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP”

Senator Cohen, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco, Representative Harding, and honorable members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 598 An Act Concerning the Production of Hemp in Connecticut, SB 893 An Act Concerning an Enforcement Plan for Hemp Production, and HB 5481 An Act Implementing the Legalization of Industrial Hemp. The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) supports the creation of a structure, consistent with the requirements of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, to regulate the cultivation of hemp in Connecticut. Senate Bill 872, *An Act Implementing the Governor’s Budget Recommendations for General Government* presents a strategy to accomplish this, and we ask the Environment Committee to support this bill. The issue of hemp cultivation has been considered for multiple years, and developing policies that provide clarity around cultivation, production, and the sale of finished goods is important. The hemp plant is used to produce a variety of goods from clothing to food to

medicine. Medicinally, hemp is perhaps best known for its production of cannabidiol (CBD), which can also be derived from marijuana. DCP currently regulates Connecticut's medical marijuana program as well as the manufacture and wholesale of food and drugs. The current definition of marijuana includes CBD, regardless of whether it is derived from hemp or marijuana, and there are strict regulations around the production of CBD to ensure the health and safety of patients

While the three bills being discussed today require the Department of Agriculture to write regulations and apply for approval, from the federal government, to regulate hemp, the details about what happens after the cultivation of hemp are left unaddressed in these proposals. DCP will continue to be an active partner in working with the Department of Agriculture and the Governor's Office on this effort to ensure that Senate Bill 872, *An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government* is comprehensive and effective in establishing a successful hemp program in Connecticut. As this committee continues to contemplate the regulation of hemp, DCP respectfully requests that deference is given to its statutory and regulatory oversight over the production of certain ingestible, topical and combustible goods derived through hemp.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input about this proposal. Please contact Leslie O'Brien, our Legislative Director, if you have any questions or need additional information.